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**Genetic Changes in Atypical Nodular Proliferations in Congenital
Melanocytic Nevi**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides methods of distinguishing benign growths arising from congenital melanocytic nevi from malignant melanoma. The methods comprise detecting a change in chromosome number that is specifically associated with benign growths. These changes include a gain of chromosome 10, a gain of chromosome 11, and a loss of chromosome 7.

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